

George Fox's Watch-Seal.

When George Fox was in Ireland in 1669, as he was leaving Limerick, he took off his silver seal, and, with his own hands, presented it to a Friend named Richard Pierce, who held his horse-bridle as he mounted.¹

Richard Pierce died in 1690, and the seal passed to his son, Samuel Pierce, who was born in 1685, and died in 1753, leaving it in the possession of his daughter, Elizabeth, born in 1723, and married in 1748 to William Richardson, who died in 1780. She died in 1791, leaving the seal to her daughter, Sarah, born in 1750, and married in 1769 to James Hill Phillips. He died in 1792, but his widow, Sarah, lived until 1836, in the Spring of which year she died, aged 86 years. The writer of this frequently visited her when she was very old, blind, and bed-ridden. She had borne thirteen children, and, in her early widowhood, had made a present of the seal to her son, Edward Phillips, born in 1787. He was a most interesting and hopeful young man, a consistent Friend, and much valued by the members of Limerick Meeting. He was engaged to be married to a young woman of the same type of character, named Deborah Fisher (maternal aunt to the writer), then of Youghal, but who, several years afterwards, removed to Limerick, where for many years she acceptably held the office of Elder in the Monthly Meeting. A short time before the period fixed for their marriage, Edward Phillips contracted fever, of which he died, desiring, within a very few hours of his end, that the seal should be given as a memorial of him to his betrothed, Deborah Fisher, who retained it in her possession for nearly 30 years, when she made a present of it to her beloved nephew, Samuel Alexander, about 1844 or 1845, and it has never been out of his keeping for sixty years!

SAMUEL ALEXANDER.

12th month 7th, 1905, within three days of completing his 87th year!

¹ In George Fox's Will, dated 8th month, 1688, he bequeaths "my seal, G. F." to his son-in-law, Thomas Lower. But as this was nineteen years after the date of his gift to Richard Pierce, it is evident it cannot be the same seal.



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